



**YEPA Workshop 4**  
**Building networks for young entrepreneurs**  
**AGENDA | 19 September 2024 | Group 1**

# Building networks for young entrepreneurs

## YEPA Online Workshop Series | 19 September 2024

### About the OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA)

The OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA) is a peer-learning network that seeks to strengthen youth entrepreneurship policies in the European Union (EU). This new initiative aims to strengthen youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes by raising knowledge about the barriers faced by young people in entrepreneurship and facilitating exchanges between policy makers, experts and young entrepreneurs on “what works” in youth entrepreneurship policy. This new initiative builds on an existing collaboration on [inclusive entrepreneurship](#) and [social entrepreneurship](#) undertaken by the European Commission and the OECD, which includes the award-winning report series [The Missing Entrepreneurs](#).

### About Workshop #4: Building networks for young entrepreneurs

This workshop is the fourth workshop in a series of six thematic workshops. The 3-hour online workshop will explore how effective networks can be constructed for young entrepreneurs and identify the keys to their success. The workshop will showcase different types of networks and their features, as well as the challenges faced by those managing formal networks of young entrepreneurs. There will also be time to raise questions, share your knowledge and expertise, notably during an interactive breakout session and debate.

### How participants can prepare for the workshop

Participants are expected to prepare for the workshop by:

- Review the discussion note
- Prepare something to share from their country (e.g. a new development, a good practice example)
- Reflect on how networks, including your own, engage with young entrepreneurs through outreach and other programming initiatives
- Consider how public policy can support young entrepreneurs in identifying and connecting with networks in your country
- Prepare a question on something that they want to learn

For more information, please contact [Helen.Shymski@oecd.org](mailto:Helen.Shymski@oecd.org) or [EMPL-YEPA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-YEPA@ec.europa.eu).

## Agenda for Workshop #4: Building networks for young entrepreneurs | Group 1

Workshop host: Youth Business International

10:00 – 10:20	<b>Welcome</b>
	European Commission <b>Cornelia Grosser</b> , Policy officer, Inclusive and Social Entrepreneurship, DG EMPL OECD <b>Dr. Jonathan Potter</b> , Head of Entrepreneurship Policy and Analysis Unit, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD CFE YBI <b>Anita Tiessen</b> , CEO, Youth Business International
10:20 – 10:35	<b>Insights from a young entrepreneur: The importance of building connections</b>
	OECD <b>David Halabisky</b> , Youth entrepreneurship co-ordinator, SMEE, OECD CFE Germany <b>Eva Claas</b> , Young Founders Network
10:35 – 10:40	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:40 – 10:50	<b>The role of networks for young entrepreneurs</b>
	OECD Presentation by <b>Helen Shymanski</b> , Junior policy analyst, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD CFE
10:50 – 10:55	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:55 – 11:25	<b>Creating and operating networks for young entrepreneurs</b>
	European Commission <b>Brigitte Fellahi-Brognaux</b> , Head of Unit for Inclusive and Social Entrepreneurship, DG EMPL Germany <b>Franziska Metzbaur</b> , Jugend Gründet Spain <b>Sara Simon Penas</b> , Youth Business Spain Belgium <b>Simone Schirru</b> , RREUSE
11:25 – 11:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
11:30 – 11:40	<b>Break</b>
11:40 – 12:00	<b>Leveraging networks to support young entrepreneurs</b>
	YBI <b>Victoria Edwards</b> , Head of Membership, Youth Business International
12:00 – 12:05	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
12:05 – 12:50	<b>Encouraging youth entrepreneurship networks: Discussions in break-out groups</b>
	Participants will be divided into breakout groups. Each group will discuss the advantages and disadvantages to different models of youth entrepreneurship networks and will work together to identify the success factors of each.  Moderators: <b>David Halabisky</b> , OECD CFE, and <b>Julien De Beys</b> , European Commission DG EMPL  Lead discussants: <b>Ruben Brave</b> (Netherlands) and <b>Kerstin Heuer</b> (Germany)  Each group will consider different approaches to building youth entrepreneurship networks (i.e. dedicated youth networks vs. broadening existing networks, online vs. in-person networks, university attached or independent entrepreneurship networks). Questions to examine include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are different types of networks more effective than others?</li><li>• How can young entrepreneurs take “ownership” of networks?</li><li>• How can governments build knowledge sharing networks for support organisations?</li></ul>
12:50 – 13:00	<b>Take-away lessons and next steps</b>
	OECD <b>David Halabisky</b> , Youth entrepreneurship co-ordinator, SMEE, OECD CFE

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## About the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

<https://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/inclusive-entrepreneurship/> | [@OECD\\_local](#) | <https://fr.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local> | [Newsletter](#) | [COGITO](#)

## About the European Union’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion develops and carries out the European Commission's policies on employment and social affairs, education and training. This includes, for example, support for more and better jobs through the European Employment Strategy, free movement of workers and coordination of social security schemes and supporting social inclusion by supporting efforts to combat poverty and social exclusion, reform social protection systems, assess new demographic and social developments.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion_en) | [@EU\\_Social](#) | <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/eu-skills> | [Facebook Social Europe](#)

See also information on social entrepreneurship : [https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/index_en)